

OPPOSITION TO SOVIET SCHEMES

post of Consul-General at Ahwaz in 1945 was generally interpreted as signifying British determination to keep Khuzistan free from the troubles besetting the Teheran authorities.

This cultivation of friendship with the tribes paid dividends to the British: one instance was the surrender of the German ^{s^ies} by the Qashqai chiefs. But the indirect gains were even more significant. The tribes, imbued with conservatism, resented radical ^{chansre.} The Soviet policy and the Tudeh stood for change. Hence, ^{he} tribes were naturally inclined to be hostile to Communism. The British encouraged this attitude and assisted the tribes in asserting authority whenever the central government failed to assert its own. This policy seemed to be successful.

The same considerations dictated Seyyid Zia's tactics. The nationalist leader persistently defended the cause of the tribes in the Mauls, even declaring that the tribes were fully justified in keeping ^{anr_s.} The tribes reciprocated. *Ra'd:-Emruz* of April 27, 1944, published an open letter of the Qashqai and Bakhtiyari chiefs to Seyyid Zia with an acknowledgement and expression of gratitude for his action in their behalf.

The Communist press, Soviet or Iranian, repeatedly voiced criticism of these alliances. It blamed the British for arming the tribes¹⁵ and accused the tribal leaders of separatist and anarchistic tendencies.¹⁵ Both British intrigue and Seyyid Zia's tribal policy* were subjected to a particularly strong attack by *Iran-i-Ma* on May 14, 1945, in an article entitled, "The Role of the Pro-German Qashqai Khans and Their British Friends."

Iran-i-Mas outburst was typical of the general tendency displayed by the Communist press in 1945. This tendency

represented an attempt to identify a conservative and nationalist attitude with pro-Nazi feelings and to accuse the British of fanning anti-Soviet spirit. Great Britain was thus regarded as chief villain and as the main-spring of all opposition to Soviet schemes. "What had been said in-directly by Soviet agencies for the previous three years was stated openly in 1945.

is *Rahbat* Jan. 24, 1945.

d., Jan. 28, 1945; also *Darya*, Dec. 28, 1944.